

FEDERAL WATER POLLUTION
CONTROL ACT AMENDMENT

SPEECH OF

HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 7, 2005

Ms. DeLAURO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 3963, to reauthorize the Long Island Sound Restoration Act through 2010.

The Long Island Sound is a 16,000 square foot estuary that is home to 10 percent of the Nation's population. The Sound provides \$6 billion to the Connecticut and New York economies through recreational activities, commercial boating and fishing, and trade. The New Haven, Bridgeport, and New London ports bring national and international trade to our region, and this valuable economic and environmental resource must be protected. Reauthorizing LISRA will enable us to do that.

One of the greatest threats to the Long Island Sound is excessive nitrogen loading that causes hypoxia or low dissolved oxygen in the water that reduces the amount of healthy habitat necessary to support fish and shellfish. This is a problem that can be combated by upgrading sewage treatment plants to remove nitrogen from waste water, and Connecticut, New York, and the Environmental Protection Agency have committed to reducing nitrogen levels in the Sound by over 50 percent by 2014. This strong commitment, however, costs money, and cannot be accomplished without the reauthorization of LISRA.

Through 2004, Connecticut received \$7.8 million in federal funding to assist in nitrogen cleanup, and it expects to receive an additional \$1.9 million for 2005. Connecticut has invested over \$150 million of its own money to upgrade sewage treatment plants, and will continue to do so with the help of LISRA. Six communities in my district—Ansonia, Derby, Naugatuck, New Haven, Waterbury, and West Haven—have benefited from LISRA funding, but they cannot complete these much needed upgrades without federal help.

Mr. Speaker, the Long Island Sound is a unique body of water—one of our most precious natural resources—and it must be protected. I urge the passage of this bill.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE CONTRIBUTIONS AND SERVICE OF
SOLANO COUNTY SUPERVISOR
SKIP THOMSON**HON. ELLEN O. TAUSCHER**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 13, 2005

Mrs. TAUSCHER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the exceptional value of Skip Thomson's thirty plus years of dedicated service to the citizens of Solano County.

In 1976, Skip Thomson began his career by accepting a position as Appraiser Aide in the Assessor's Valuation Division. Shortly thereafter he and his high school sweetheart, Gail Woods, were married, and within ten years Skip and Gail Thomson were blessed with two sons. Their oldest son, Loren, is a First Lieutenant in the California National Guard and is currently serving our country in Iraq. Their

second son, Brandon, is currently a sophomore at Sierra Junior College in Rocklin, California, and is pursuing a Liberal Arts Degree.

After 16 years of service in the Assessor's Valuation Division, Skip Thomson campaigned for and won a position as a member of the Solano County Board of Supervisors. Skip served three terms representing the Fifth District, which encompasses 52 percent of Solano County, including the cities of Dixon, Rio Vista, south Vacaville and Suisun City. While serving as a member of the Board, one of Skip's proudest achievements was ensuring Travis Air Force Base the ability to expand if and when necessary.

After leaving his county board position, Skip Thomson was elected County Assessor/Recorder. Under his direction, a plan was developed and implemented that finalized the recording process of a 38,000 document backlog that existed when he took office. For this accomplishment, Skip and his staff were recognized for their achievements in the County's Annual Report.

Skip Thomson has spent his entire career working for his community and for the citizens of Solano County. As he enters retirement, I would like to wish Skip, Gail, and their sons many wonderful years of happiness, prosperity, and good health.

HONORING JOHN BROWN ON HIS
CAMPAIGN TO BE ELECTED TO
THE CHAUTAUQUA COUNTY LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT 19**HON. BRIAN HIGGINS**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 13, 2005

Mr. HIGGINS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor John Brown, a resident of Chautauqua County for his quest to become the elected representative to the nineteenth legislative district in the Chautauqua County Legislature. Although Mr. Brown was not able to realize his dream he has been able to make an impact on other's lives in a different way.

The campaign trail is a difficult path to take. Any person with a dream may enter but only a few are able to reach the end. Mr. Brown traveled that path with his head held high and a smile on his face the entire way. I have no doubt that his kind demeanor left a lasting impression on the voters of district 19.

Chautauqua County is blessed to have such strong candidates with a desire to make this county the wonderful place that we all know it can be. Mr. Brown is one of those people and that is why Mr. Speaker I rise to honor him today.

IN PRAISE OF THE RICHMOND
STEELERS FOOTBALL TEAM**HON. GEORGE MILLER**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 13, 2005

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay special tribute to the Richmond Steelers Football Team as they return from the National Youth Football Pigskin League Tournament in Las Vegas. About

128 teams from around the country compete in the Tournament. I am proud to represent them in Congress.

The Richmond Steelers, 200 boys and one girl, under the direction of Head Coach Fred Harris, have long been a story of success in the history of national youth football. The Steelers have won five consecutive California state youth football titles and have compiled a 59–3 record over that span. The team reached their highest mark last year as they took first place in the Midget Division of the Pigskin Tournament.

More than the trophies, the Steelers represent salvation for children who otherwise face numerous hardships. In August 2004, players were devastated by the murder of Terrance Kelley, a former Steelers player and De La Salle High School football star who was on his way to the University of Oregon on a football scholarship. In August of this year, the day before the team's first practice game, beloved Midget coach Waleed Elahi was shot and killed. Waleed and his brother Khalid started an early morning breakfast program to ensure that players had a nutritious meal each morning before going to school.

This year, the opportunity to defend their title was nearly stripped from the Steelers, as they lacked the funds to travel to Las Vegas for the championship games. The team receives no outside funding and relies on membership fees and donations to survive. Steelers President Adrian Muhammad, when asked about the team's situation, said that unless there was a miracle, the team would not be able to afford the trip.

However, miracles still do happen. Once word got out, the community responded, and donations came pouring in. Residents and businesses from Contra Costa County banded together to help the team raise \$30,000 in just a few weeks. With such an overwhelming response, the Steelers were able to make the trip.

The Steelers returned to Richmond with four honors, a first place trophy won by the Pee Wees, two second place trophies won by the Midgets and the Mighty Mites, and the Junior Midget's third place bronze medals. However, for these children and the community at large, the fact that the trip was even made possible is every bit as important as the outcome of the games. The individuals, businesses and community organizations of Richmond pooled their resources and together provided the necessary funding. This effort in support of our children represents the very best in community spirit and is an example of hope that we can all celebrate.

Mr. Speaker, it is my honor to recognize the journey that the coaches and players of the Richmond Steelers, and the community in which they live, have traveled this year. Please join me in celebrating their success.

HONORING DONALD L. WOODS

HON. JEB HENSARLING

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 13, 2005

Mr. HENSARLING. Mr. Speaker, today I would like to honor the tremendous career of Donald L. Woods, who is retiring after more than 13 years of service to the United States Attorney's Office, Western Division.